Freight subsidy on petroleum products

593. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to offer freight subsidy on petroleum products sold in farflung/remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, the areas to be brought under this category; and

(c) the reasons for extending this benefit and whether it is for a specific or for indefinite period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) It has decided to have freight subsidy for far flung areas for PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG effective 1st April 2002. The details of the scheme have not been worked out as yet.

(c) The freight subsidy for far flung areas is for containing the impact of freight in the retail selling prices of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG, which are subsidized products, in such areas. No decision has been taken about the period for which this subsidy would be available.

Entry of Private Sector in Petro-Chemicals Industry

594. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC is questioning the creation of private sector monopoly in petrochemicals industry as reported in Economic Times dated the 9th February, 2002 in news-item captioned IOC crosses swords with Government over RIL bid for IPCL;

(b) if so, the response of Government to the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.